



Hoopa Valley Tribal Council

Office of Emergency Services

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Hoopa Public Health Threat 2015

Public Service Announcement

AUGUST 22, 2015 1600 hours

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Westerly winds provided some relief from smoky conditions in the Hoopa Valley on Thursday and Friday evening, however, light easterly winds beginning around 11 a.m. today, Saturday, August 21, blew smoke back into the valley.

At 12 p.m. today particulate matter increased quickly, reaching 200 (measured in parts per million) of Particulate Matter (PM) in one hour. **Conditions are expected to range from MODERATE TO UNHEALTHY** throughout the remainder of the day, but due to fluctuating wind patterns Particulate Matter concentrations may vary greatly.

Those who request a HEPA air filter from K'ima:w Medical Center in Hoopa are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis by medical providers. K'ima:w Medical Center is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.- 5p.m. with the exception of being closed from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesdays. K'ima:w Medical Center can be reached at (530) 625-4261.

The Hoopa Office of Emergency Services is working to obtain N95 filtration masks for those required to work outdoors. Although masks are helpful to filter particulate matter, they are not effective at filtering all toxins associated with wildfire smoke. They must also be worn correctly to be helpful. Masks can provide a false sense of security. Precautions should continue to be followed whether or not a mask is available. Instructions on how to correctly use masks is attached to this announcement.

The Hoopa Valley Tribal Environmental Protection Agency is monitoring air quality and particulate matter in Hoopa at two locations, one on the valley floor and one at about 1,400-foot elevation. Particulate matter concentrations are also being monitored by the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) at the following locations: Crescent City, Gasquet, Orleans, Weitchpec, Hoopa, Willow Creek, Burnt Ranch, Weaverville, Hayfork, Hyampom, Mad River, Eureka and Garberville.

The following fires are generating smoke in the Klamath-Trinity river communities, and surrounding counties: **Mad River Complex, Humboldt Complex, Route Complex, Nickowitz Fire, Horse Fire, Gasquet Complex, South Complex, River Complex, Fork Complex, Rocky Fire.**

Fire information can be found at www.inciweb.gov

The Hoopa Valley Tribe declared a State of Emergency on Tuesday, August 18, due to sustained unhealthy air quality conditions resulting from several wildfire complexes burning in Humboldt and Trinity Counties. A clean air facility is available to the community from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 7-days a week, at the Hoopa Neighborhood Facilities. There is also a clean air facility available to senior citizens at the Hoopa Senior Center on Loop Road, open from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM WILDFIRE SMOKE

Take precautions to relieve yourself and your family from the smoke. Use common sense when participating in outdoor activity. Smoke levels vary depending on fire behavior and weather conditions. Strenuous physical activity should be limited during periods of heavy smoke. The following recommendations currently apply:

- Sensitive people with heart or lung disease, asthma, older adults, small children and infants should remain indoors with windows and doors closed as much as possible.
- If you have air conditioning and/or air filtration in your home and car, it is recommended that you use it. Change standard filters to a medium or high efficiency filter. Use the re-circulate or recycle feature if available.
- Do not use fans or swamp coolers that bring smoky outdoor air inside.
- Avoid physical activity outdoors, especially if you are experiencing dizziness, burning eyes, persistent coughing or fatigue. During periods of heavy smoke avoid all outdoor activity.
- Call or visit your medical provider if you are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness.
- If you don't have an air filter and/or air conditioner, visit the clean air facility during open hours 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., 7 days per week.

Symptoms that may be related to excess smoke exposure include:

- Repeated coughing
- Shortness of breath and difficulty breathing
- Wheezing
- Chest tightness or pain
- Palpitations
- Nausea or unusual fatigue
- Lightheadedness

If you have any of the above symptoms, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Wildfires ignited by lightning storms on July 31 continue to burn with expected containment reaching into October.